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ABSTRACT

This adaptation of the "Three Little Pigs" story is suitable for performance in elementary grades, especially around Halloween. The story comes with step-by-step directions for how to dramatize the action for maximum audience participation and response and with suggestions for optional learning activities that can be used with the story. Some of the activities that go with the story are making hand shadows (illustrations are provided), working on language arts by pinpointing adjectives in the story, and discussing story creation (the story is a combination of 2 different stories). An activity about product brand names and another activity about health habits are also included. (NKA)

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THE BIG BAD WOLF GOES TRICK-OR-TREATING

(Classroom Corner)

Flora Joy, Keith Young, and Roger Petersen

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CLASSROOM CORNER:
The Big, Bad Wolf Goes Trick-or-Treating

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ONE HALLOWEEN DAY THE BIG, BAD **wolf** WOKE UP AND STUMBLED OUT OF BED. OH-H-H-H. HE was feeling very, very **crab**by. You see, just the day before, his doctor had said to him, "Your cholesterol level is sky high! You have been wolfing down too many pigs. You are going to have to give up pork forever! If you eat any more pork at all, I can't begin to describe the terrible things that will happen to you!"

Now this was distressing news indeed for a big, bad **wolf** who had enjoyed pork since he was just a little wolfer. To tell a wolf that he could never again eat another little pig would be like sentencing him to death! All the big, bad wolf could think about was the luscious, mouth-watering taste of pork. "**I want pork! I want pork!**" he chanted as he began pacing the floor. But the doctor's warnings of "**No more pork! No more pork!**" echoed above his cries of hunger. "**AUUUGGH!**"

He tried all kinds of things to take his mind off little-pig meals and get out of his **crab**by mood. First he opened the newspaper, but it was filled with advertisements for sausage and pork chops. Next he turned on the radio to hear the news, but the announcer was discussing pork-barrel politics and swine flu.

The TV was no help either, because most stations were showing Porky Pig reruns. "**AUUUGGH!**" He closed his eyes and imagined swallowing whole a nice, plump, juicy, delectable, scrumptious pig in **one big gulp! G-U-L-P!**

He was desperate! All those bran muffins and celery sticks just didn't satisfy an appetite nurtured on fatback and bacon. In a last-ditch effort, he decided that night he would go trick-or-treating. It would be a wonderful way to acquire some delectable morsels without even having to work for them. "After all," the wolf thought, "the doctor had only said, '**No more pork!**' He *hadn't* said, '**No more candy!**' Eh! Eh! Eh!"

As soon as darkness filled the forest, the wolf sneaked out of the neighborhood. "This is great!" he snorted to himself, "I don't even have to buy a costume." Soon he came to a house made of straw. He banged loudly on the door. Immediately it swung open and out stepped a fat **turkey** who happened to be humming *Turkey in the Straw.*

The turkey looked at the wolf and said, "Hey! Get a load of that cheap wolf outfit! At what yard sale did you get that flea-bitten rag, Furry Face? Not so close, kid! Whe-e-e-e-ew! Your breath smells like you have been eating bran muffins and celery sticks! Gobble! Gobble!"

"He's a turkey, all right," grumbled the wolf to himself. Then he remembered that the doctor had said, "**No more pork!**" But he *hadn't* said, "**No more turkey!**" So he pounced upon the turkey and gobbled up that loud-mouthed squawker in **one big gulp! G-U-L-P!**

Patting his stomach, the wolf declared, "This is turning out better than I thought!" But soon those turkey feathers made his throat dry and scratchy, and he decided to go down to the lake for a drink of water. As he headed toward the shore, he noticed a house made of sticks and thought he'd take a little detour to see who might live there. He banged on the rickety wooden door, and much to his surprise, a very near-sighted **beaver** came out of the house and squinted at him.

"**Trick or treat,**" said the wolf in a voice muffled by all those turkey feathers.

"Sa-a-a-a-ay, there, Sonny!" whistled the beaver. "You shouldn't be out in the night like this with that sore throat you've got!" The beaver got a little closer. "Hm-m-m-m. I didn't know they were selling kangaroo outfits this year. Novel idea though. Where's your sack, Sonny?"

"In here!" growled the wolf as he pointed to his mouth. The beaver tip-toed over to peek in and said, "Sa-a-a-a-ay there, Sonny! You might need to clean out your sack a little better. Whe-e-e-e-ew! Smells like bran muffins and turkey feathers in there!" With a loud roar the wolf grabbed that beaver and swallowed him down in **one big gulp! G-U-L-P!**

Teller Notes:

This story may be told with vocal audience participation and/or with hand shadow characters. Consider the notes below for both the characters and the telling.

Show the **wolf** *shadow character. (See later design.)*

Show the **crab** *shadow character. (See later design. This character is* ***optional****. Should the hand shadows become too cumbersome, feel free to eliminate this one.)*

Show the **wolf** *shadow character and keep it on the screen with movements corresponding to the story except when hands are needed for other characters.*

Audience encouragement to repeat **I want pork** *and* **No more pork** *may be begun at this point, if desired.*

Make the **AUUUGGH!** *sound as pitiful and agonizing as possible.*

(Optional **crab** *character)*

The oft-repeated **one big gulp** *may develop into an audience participation pattern by encouraging them to say this line with you each time. Make the last* **G-U-L-P** *a long, loud, belabored utterance.*

Continue to encourage the **No more pork** *participation.*

Show the **turkey** *shadow character. (See later design.)*

Encourage audience to say **No more...** *with you by pausing (while they remember) after you say the first* **No.** *Pause again before the word* **turkey** *to see if anyone can anticipate the right word to use.*

Again, encourage audience to say **one big gulp** *with you by pausing slightly after you say the word* **one.**

Show the **beaver** *shadow character. (See later design.)*

Make **trick or treat** *sound very scratchy.*

Continue with audience assistance with the **gulps.**

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"Heh! Heh!" chuckled the wolf as he waddled towards the edge of the water feeling quite pleased with himself. After all, the doctor had said "**No more pork!**" But he *hadn't* said, "**No more beaver!**" The beaver had gone down pretty easily, but his rough flat tail had scraped the wolf's already-sore throat and made him thirstier than ever.

The wolf was almost at the lake's edge when he spotted a beautiful home made of bricks. "Hey, hey. They say the third time's the charm!" He knew that this was the home of a juicy little debutante pig that he'd had his eye on for years. He staggered up to her front door and was about to knock when he thought to himself, "Wait a minute. I'll be disobeying the doctor's orders." But before long he rationalized, "Well, she's such a tiny little pig. What harm could it do to eat one small serving?" So with a mouth-watering grin, he knocked at her door.

When the little **pig** opened the door, she squealed with delight! "Oh, what a beastly costume! How realistic! How dahhling! Who is your designer? **GUESS?**"

"Guess what?" he asked.

"No, you wouldn't have to guess. You know," she replied. "It's a **Bum** outfit."

"Hey, I'm no hobo!" the wolf protested.

The pig tried to clarify herself. "No, I'm saying that you look **Chic**."

"Heh, I'm not an Arab either," he yelled.

"My, my, there must be a **Gap** between your ears," said the frustrated pig. "I'm simply trying to determine who designed your costume. **Banana Republic** certainly would have appeal. Let's see. Was it **Nick Nike? Wrangler Wolf? Diana White Fangstenburg?**"

"No!" snarled the wolf. "Let's just say it's *homegrown*."

Still unaware of who it was standing on her doorstep, the little pig replied, "A do-it-yourselfer? Oh, how quaint! How long did it take you to put together such lovely attire?"

The wolf snapped, "A lot less time than it will take for me to digest yours!" And with a loud, fierce, growling roar, the wolf gobbled up that little pig in **one big gulp! G-U-L-P!**

Well, that wolf had had himself quite a night. His belly was swollen, and now his throat was really killing him—for in his haste he had also swallowed the pig's diamond brooch *and* her silver-toed, patent-leather, high-heeled shoes. He wobbled down to the lake's edge, fell to his knees, and stuck his long snout into the water for a nice long drink. As he slurped up the lake water, he began to worry about what the doctor said might happen if he ate pork.

Now, nearby a stout **ram** by the name of Arnold Schwarzenhoofer had been searching for the whereabouts of his two friends—namely the turkey and the beaver. When he heard the roar of the wolf, he had dashed over to the pig's house. His dismay at finding the pig's house empty was changed to anger when he saw the upraised haunches of the wolf at the lake.

With a loud snort the **ram** headed toward the wolf's south-bound parts at full speed. The wolf was slurping down the water so loudly that he never heard the **ram** approach. All of a sudden, **BOOM!** The big, bad wolf soared high into the air, across the lake, over a grove of trees, and past a decaying cemetery. **CRASH!** He hit the ground! And when he did, out popped—first the little **pig** (who retrieved her diamond brooch, but could locate only one of her silver-toed, patent-leather high-heeled shoes)—then the **beaver**, who had by then decided that before the day was over he was going to make an appointment with Dr. Seegood, the eye doctor, to get himself a pair of glasses—and finally the **turkey.** All of them were very happy to be released from the wolf's abominable abdominal prison, and none were the worse for the experience. But they all had to take several baths before they stopped smelling like bran muffins and celery sticks.

As for the **wolf**, he was knocked out cold all night. He came to the next morning and was sore from head to toe (particularly his swollen stomach). "Mercy sakes alive!" he groaned. "If that's what happens to me when I eat one *little* pig, I'll never survive a *big* one. Maybe my doctor was right after all. **No more pork!**" And as a matter of fact, that wolf not only swore off swine, but also beaver and turkey for the rest of his days. And my friends, I think it's safe to say that the wolf *never* went trick-or-treating in *that* neighborhood ever again. But *you* had better be very careful. If a seedy-looking wolf with a sore throat knocks on your door at Halloween, make certain his breath doesn't smell like bran muffins and celery sticks—or *you* might just disappear, in **one big gulp! G-U-L-P!** SW

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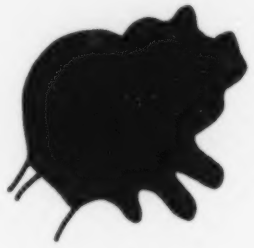
Continue with audience participation in saying **No more...**

Show **pig** *shadow character. (See later design.)*



Continue with audience assistance with the **gulps.**

Show **ram** *shadow character. (See later design.)*

This story can become a "jump tale" by shouting **BOOM** *in a very quick, loud voice. For an extra frightening effect, the word* **CRASH** *may be used even louder and scarier.*

Shadow characters change from **pig** *to* **beaver** *to* **turkey** *and back to* **wolf.**

One final chance for audience to say **No more pork!**

The story can have a loud closure with all in the audience in unison saying **one big gulp! G-U-L-P!** *This can be quite a dramatic and vocal finale.*

See the following page for instructions for forming the hand shadow characters and for some optional teaching suggestions.

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Teaching Suggestions for *The Big, Bad Wolf Goes Trick-or-Treating*

A variety of optional activities may be used with the story on the previous two pages. One that will likely interest students of all ages is the hand shadow characters, although this skill cannot be mastered by all. Those who are adept might want to begin with the wolf, then progress to some of the more difficult characters. Below are the designs for the formation of these hand shadows. Feel free to deviate from these in any way you wish. Remember that all hands are different. Some fingers bend at different angles and in different directions. Some hands have great trouble bending and some are very pliable. Many factors such as finger lengths, finger "plumpness," fingernail length, the state/style of the manicure, or wrist flexibility all affect the image of these characters. (The "eyes" are difficult for most.) A spotlight (possibly homemade) works well for these characters. Several books about hand shadows are available in many libraries. Check out these sources and experiment with additional characters and possibly some new stories.

Wolf

Crab

Turkey

Beaver

Pig

Ram

Other Optional Teaching Suggestions

Adjectives: Think of several of the adjectives in this story. The wolf, for example, described the pig as *nice, plump, juicy, delectable,* and *scrumptious*. What words would you use to describe your favorite food? What words would you use to describe your least favorite foods?

Health Habits: (A major purpose of this story was to help reemphasize good health practices.) The orders of the doctor in this story were, "No more pork." Investigate the advantages and disadvantages of following this advice. If you asked a doctor about your own diet, what would you like to hear him or her say? Fill in the blanks of the following two sentences: *No more* _____. *Eat lots of* _____. Examine the words you used to fill in these blanks. Would you consider this to be healthy advice? Now give "healthy advice" to a friend by filling in the same blanks with either the same words or different ones.

Brand Names: Several brands of clothes were listed in this story. Some were actual brand names and others were twisted slightly to form new words. Do you know which brand names are real? If you were creating a brand of clothes for a wolf to wear, what made-up brand name would you call it? What future brand name would you like to have as a choice for yourself?

Story Creation: This story is a combination of two different common stories. Do you know what two stories they are? Select two other stories and think about their plots. Then prepare an entirely new story by using some of the characters from both stories. Tell this new story to a friend.

SW

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